CENTER LINE

A Publication of Waukesha County's Retzer Nature Center

Summer 2007

In this issue...

Upcoming Events:

- ID of Wisconsin Trees
- Nature's Mysteries!
- Fall Native Plant Sale at Retzer
- Apple Harvest Festival September 22

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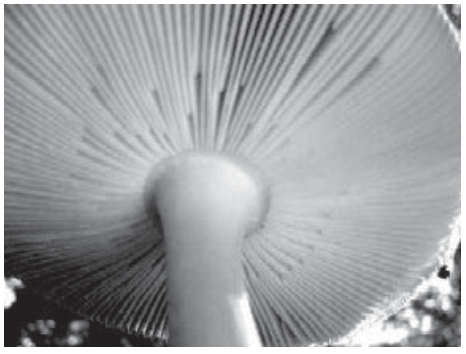
A Tale of Treasures

In the large group of organisms called fungi, tiny treasures can be found on nature's grounds. The group is defined by growth habits, and the inability to make their own food (since they have no chlorophyl). In the world of non-flowering plants, fungi reproduce by spreading small spores, rather than with flowers and seeds. So how does one discover this buried treasure, the lowly mushroom? Let's dig into its mystery.

The mushroom goes hand in hand with moisture. Spores develop on the mushroom. Some species develop spores on the underside of the mushroom cap. Some species develop spores over the surface of the whole mushroom while other species grow spores on the inside of the mushroom. Puffballs are an example of inside spore development. Rain, air currents or flying insects will aid in dispersing spores from the parent mushroom to new locations. Hopefully, landing areas will be moist. If new accommodations are agreeable, underground treasure will be buried on site. That underground treasure is a network of threads that begin to form, called mycelium. Mycelium is often white, and produces swellings that will enlarge and soon push above the surface of the earth, to form the fleshy structure of a mushroom. The new plant will again produce spores to be dispersed and rehidden.

In the interim, the mushroom plant must be nourished. The use of the word "plant" is deceiving for the mushroom family. Some scientists put the fungi in a separate kingdom. But whatever kingdom reigns, the tiny treasure must have food — and where the spores settle or dig in is important for survival. Some mushrooms exist on decaying wood or other dead plant material. Other species of mushroom find live plant material to their liking — even other mushrooms. One mushroom with the name Orange-colored Cordyceps has a taste for insects. There are mushroom species that obtain their food from living trees in ways that benefit both; mycelium intertwines with rootlets of the tree, and in return the tree receives nutrients that it needs. At times mushroom and tree can become as close as treasure and chest, and particular kinds of mushrooms will always grow under or near specific kinds of trees.



Top left: Jelly Fungi
Bottom: Mushroom gills

Mushrooms of a particular kind are grouped according to location and structure that bear their spores. Gilled Mushrooms and the closely related Chanterelles are the most prominent group. Mushrooms whose spongy undersides are perforated with little spore producing openings are in the Tube Mushroom group. The Pore or Bracket Fungi, which are firm and have spores that open on the underside, often grow like shelves on a stump or tree. Teeth Fungi

produce spores on hanging teeth, which may be on the underside of the mushroom or even all over its surface. Puffballs and their kin, which open up to release spores (since these develop on the inside of the mushroom), represent a distinctive group. Other classification groupings include Jelly Fungi, Cup Fungi and Coral Fungi. The list goes on forever. One can spend a lifetime with identification!

In a past lifetime, ancient Egyptians had the first way with words (or first way with pictures would be more accurate). Old hieroglyphics picture the treasures of the pharaohs. The mushroom, the plant of immortality, had been recorded almost 5,000 years ago. Pharaohs ruled that mushrooms were food for royalty, and no commoner could even touch them. Unbeknownst, the pharaohs may have done a favor to the commoners. Who knows how many rulers ate their way straight into immortality — after hoarding their treasures and unknowingly eating poisonous mushrooms.

Amanita Poisonous Mushroom

Number one official rule for today — when in the company of wild mushrooms OBSERVE— RECORD and MARVEL at the treasures of nature but never, ever, include them in your menu!

Wisconsin weather conditions proved most favorable for mushrooms last year. Treasures popped up from the soil, and with patience you could watch them grow right before your eyes. Gilled mushrooms such as the Grisette looked like miniature umbrellas as they formed long trails along pine forest floors. Inky Caps, conical-shaped mushrooms producing jet-black liquid that melted into artistic patterns on their caps as they aged, were exciting treasures to be seen on decaying logs and stumps. Pore Fungi were seen, which looked like fancy seashells and had names. Artist's Fungus and Many-colored Polypore multiplied on dead wood or in wounds in broad-leaved trees. Out of the garden woodchip mulch in my front yard, a find was made. From an egg-shaped case in the mulch, a mushroom rose three inches within a couple of hours. Wow! It grew a reddish stalk and had olive-green slime at its tapered end. It sported foul smelling slime which attracted flies. Poring over a hundred mushroom pictures, I finally identified my treasure. A Stinkhorn! The treasure had to be reburied.

Inky Caps

Like all groups of plants and animals, the mushrooms have a member that is truly strange to us. A European mushroom, this single treasure that is loved above all the others. In the hierarchy of mushrooms however, this deviant is found to be lower than all others. In fact, it is well hidden, strictly subterranean, and spends a lifetime under the ground. The underground treasure is an ugly brown and rubbery round lump called the Truffle. And how this hidden ball of fungus ever became a sought-after treasure remains a complete mystery to me!

See you on the trail,

Shirley Blanchard

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Observations on the trail

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SAVE THE DATE!

September 22, 2007

Apple Harvest Festival

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HEARTWOOD

Reflections From a Pilgrim on the Road...

A few months ago, the education naturalists (both staff and volunteer) at Retzer Nature Center had a training session devoted to “what makes a good naturalist?”. Different people held forth on this topic, presenting their ideas and experiences relating to the art and science of teaching children about the land. The entire session was wonderful! It left me with a refreshed perspective concerning all the diverse ways there are to skin this particular cat; it also left me with a renewed and profound respect for the quality of our education staff and volunteers.

After nearly eighteen years as a Retzer naturalist, and nearly thirty years as an educator, I sort of get philosophical about the question “what makes a good naturalist?”. In preparing for my own presentation at the training session, I found myself thinking very personally about my own career. What is my identity as a teaching naturalist, as I do it? How do I most-effectively manage the communication between myself and the kids? How much of their experience here at Retzer is about them, how much is about me, and how much is about the land? What’s the balance between knowing facts and asking questions, between concluding and discovering? What does it mean to do a “good job” of teaching kids about the land? These and other questions pre-occupied me as I struggled to pull together a coherent set of points to present.

I say at the outset that I am a preservationist, and a teacher of the intrinsic value of land. I believe, with Leopold, that land has intrinsic value on its own, apart from any use that people might make of it. With this as an ethical starting point, it obviously follows that we are obligated to live in a certain way — as well-behaved members of the land’s community, conscious of the greater good that we must mesh with. It is breathtaking to realize all the ways in which we don’t live like that, all that we need to learn, all the changes we need to make. I think there ought to be quite a future for environmental educators — because there is so much to be done.

One important way that I try to be a preservationist is by instilling a value for land in the next generation. If we can make a difference in the outlook and land values of the kids in school today — the tax-payers, land-owners, urban planners, developers, architects, teachers, and politicians of tomorrow — then the so-called “multiplier effect” of our educational efforts is breathtaking, and the future is bright indeed.

So then, with these foundation stones firmly in place, my presentation to our group of staff and volunteer naturalists, and to you — in the form of ten specific reflections…

1—Participate in your own journey, and make progress.
The naturalist’s journey is different at different times — recreational pursuits, learning the science, populating the perspective with facts, artistic expression, reading the landscape, teaching your kids or grandkids, seeking beauty, seeking personal renewal…a lifetime of involvement with the land, with nature, is what characterizes a naturalist, but the specifics are as diverse as life itself!

2—Be clear about what you can share with others, particularly with kids.
Some things are personal (such as a spiritual connection with nature), some things are an acquired taste (such as identifying sedges, mosses, or ferns), some things can be shared with peers (like a really great dichotomous key for identifying trees!) or other adults (such as the beauty of the change of seasons), and some things can be shared with kids (including all things cool, bright, and enthusiastic!). Knowing which is which makes a naturalist effective as a teacher and mentor!

3—Practice cautious optimism. Believe you can make a difference, and get busy.
I need to model a world view that gives people hope — but first I need to have this hopeful world view myself. Sometimes I need to take a walk, and find the spark again. I need to take care of my own idealism and optimism, and then teach this to others. The only person that can make a difference is the person who believes he can. The creative power of positive expectations, of human creativity, of "the human element" is a force for change in the world!

4—Find your own authentic persona—truth in a compelling package, an adult with a kid inside.
Package yourself for effectiveness with your audience, in terms of what they see and experience. Your persona ought to show an authentic version of who you are, of what's really there. Anyone's strengths can be packaged to be effective — quiet and reflective packages as stealthy and mysterious; loud and raucous packages as a celebration of the joy of "kid-ness". Be true to who you are!

5—Plan in terms of what the kids are doing.
Success in any educational experience depends on what the kids actually do and experience, not on your good intentions. It's about the kids; it's not about you. Take yourself off the hook — it's not your job to be a minute-to-minute entertainer. Plan for what the kids will be doing, and let them do it — and then punctuate it with your enthusiasm, insights, and guidance, showing them how to break open a discovery!

6—Manage the communication first.
Speak clearly, manage the crowd, be sure everyone can see and hear, make sure the sun isn't in their eyes, keep watch over the cold or heat, deal with distractions (which won't go away on their own). Take care of all this first — assure that communication can happen, and then what you communicate can be seen, heard, and appreciated.

7—Develop your own power themes.
What do you like, know about, have affinity for? Teach what you like, and the enthusiasm will be there (and admitting to kids that a particular thing is boring will give you credibility on the stuff you really like). What fits with the surroundings? What helps you connect with the kids? For me, favorite themes include reading the landscape ("what happened here?"), personifying plants as living actors (which they are), seed dispersal (on the wind, on the fur of animals, or inside the fruit that animals eat and carry), the connection of insects to their plant habitat (room and board), and figuring out animal tracks ("whose tracks these are…")!

8—Develop your own bag of tricks.
What works for you? Try stuff — keep what works, toss what doesn't work (use what you see others using, and make it your own). If something doesn't work, laugh — you are more than your techniques. Outfit yourself with props that help you (gather these as you go, and keep them). My bag of tricks includes adopting the voice, volume, and energy of an eight-year-old (an adult with a kid inside), having kids repeat key points after me (repeatedly), coaching kids on making landscape-reading presentations of found objects to the group (gnawed deer antler, animal skull, shed snakeskin, goldenrod gall, etc.), which they can take credit for finding and knowing about!

9—Loosen up.
A good speaker writes notes (writing things makes them stick), prepares, practices thoroughly in advance — so he doesn't have to use the notes when he gives the presentation. Prepare diligently beforehand…and then let yourself be relaxed and spontaneous in giving the program!

10—Don't be afraid to learn, and grow, and change.
We're truly all learners, and no one is ever really an expert—we're all just at different places on the learning curve. Share this quest, that of being a learner, with the kids. The best things you have to share with kids are:
– your kid-like enthusiasm for discovery, and
– your adult sophistication at breaking open a discovery.

This takes you off the hook of needing to be an expert (because not knowing something is just a joyous opportunity to learn and discover).

Nature goes through seasons, and so do you. Your authentic persona will change with time. You will become wiser and more knowledgeable (even as you become less athletic). Different things work at different times. You always have something valuable to share. You always have a great example to give. My authentic persona has changed over time — from "bright older brother" to "Indiana Jones" (complete with the outfit) to "aging hippie earth-child" to "sage mentor" (with a mental age of eight!).

Have fun. Do good. Make a difference for kids, and for the land!

Larry

An Unlikely Champion

A more appropriate title might use “icon” instead of “champion”. You could use “hero” but that implies conscious effort, bravery and the like. “Representative” seems way too political or stuffy and “idol” is just way out in left field unless you’re talking about creating the next pop star. Whatever term we choose to use, what I mean is something we can rally behind, something that will uphold believed-in values and defend the community surrounding it. In the end I like “champion” because that word is associated with victory. And I am really pulling for this little creature to win a few arguments.

The hero (if you will) of our story is a non-slimy snake. I was once told that adding a “y” to the end of an undesirable thing adds to its appeal. To that end you may say snaky if you like. I would say that this animal is also non-offensive but that would be a lie. Garter and Ribbon snakes are notorious for using musky scent when captured (be honest, if you had a musk gland, you’d use it if something grabbed you), and the Butler’s Garter Snake (*Thamnophis butleri*) is no exception.

Perhaps you have already heard of this beast of burden, and the wild controversy surrounding it. It has altered development projects for quite some time now, and wherever development is concerned, things heat up and make headlines. This creates two passionate sides that seem to surround and center on the snake, adding to its surely already busy life of slithering, eating and hibernating. I jest but the reality is quite serious. On one side you have the opportunity for development, and there is no questioning the benefit to humans here. Increased jobs, economy, living spaces and tax base are all very valid arguments. On the other side you have the survival of the snake in Wisconsin, which means protecting the ecological integrity of all parts of the snake’s home range. Depending on who you are and what you value, one of these sides is clearly the winner, perhaps even on an overwhelming scale. There are others who see both sides in varying degrees. No matter where you stand, we must all make an effort to understand all parts of this less than black-and-white issue, to make a respectful case on either side. I have little problem with responsible development. Where would we be if we didn’t construct some new buildings and update existing structures? I do want development to continue to exist, and I’m sure it will. The important thing is that I want <u>both</u> sides of this dispute to exist.

The population of the Butler’s Garter Snake in Wisconsin is an isolated one. There is a small pocket around Milwaukee where they exist, and that is the only location in the state. This group has no connection to the larger groups in Indiana, Ohio and southern Michigan. In the past, perhaps the snakes surrounded the southern tip of Lake Michigan to form one contiguous range. One can hardly argue that Chicago and Gary are to their liking. The Wisconsin snakes are at the western extent of their range (by about 50 to 100 miles), and completely cut off. This makes it difficult to sell the need for their protection sometimes, especially if there are “plenty” of the snakes elsewhere.

In order to address the need for preservation, here is a Butler’s Garter Snake question-and-answer section. These questions come from colleagues, family, friends, people I have met, and various articles (and some I just made up for sake of argument). Granted, these are my answers and do not represent the views and opinions of anyone else (let alone the County of Waukesha and Retzer Nature Center). Those who disagree may write their own accounts. The questions are in my own words to protect all parties, innocent or otherwise.

Q. Why is the Butler’s Garter Snake on the State Threatened List at all? Why should we bother to protect such an isolated population when there are plenty of snakes just to the east? It is true that the snakes are federally classified as G4, which means, “<u>Apparently globally secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery</u>”. The key word in that statement is “periphery”. I believe that the individuals at population range extremes show different adaptations than those in the middle. Furthermore, those on the extreme north will show even more marked difference with those on the extreme south. The same is true for east versus west or any opposite directions you wish to choose. Over time a given group of individuals will become better suited to their precise area. The genetics of the edge populations are crucial for the overall health of the gene pool. Research of this nature exists for Lake Sturgeon in the great lakes. In short, the longer the geographic separation, the greater difference in genotype (DeHaan et. al. 2006).

Q. Why can't we build around here where there are large areas in public ownership that provide snake habitat such as Cedarburg Bog and Jackson Marsh? Since the population in the state is already small, we need to protect all of the areas supporting Butler's Garter Snakes. Pushing a group to fewer numbers increases inbreeding and genetic drift. It would also be beneficial to maintain corridors to these larger areas so individuals can contribute to the entire Wisconsin group. The snake is already threatened in our state. There is no need to make them endangered before we begin preservation.

Q. Can't we just pick some up and move them? No. There is a reason why they're rare. Put them too far north and they might not survive. They are already at the western extreme of their range and would likely fail if we placed them further away from Lake Michigan. If you transport them to an area where they were not present historically and they actually survive, what species do they kick out? Much of the niche they occupy is in direct competition with much of our other native wildlife. You cannot effect such an action without consequence. Even the existing large tracts of land that currently have snakes is risky simply because these areas are already supporting the present Butler's snakes to their natural capacity.

Q. There is some frustration in the state's plan regarding population goals. Why isn't there a move toward delisting? This species will always be rare in the state because it is on the edge of its home range. Even if all development ceased immediately and the reptile lovers save all the suitable habitat, we would probably still see the Butler's Garter Snake on the threatened list indefinitely.

Q. Are there any other reasons to protect this silly creature (yes, this one is fabricated)? I'm glad you asked. Here are my final opinions on why this is important:

1) Listed species help protect uplands. There are recognized federal and state regulations governing wetland protection and mitigation but very little litigation exists for uplands. Higher ground contributes to <u>our</u> overall health and the health of our environment every bit as much as wetlands do.
2) This shows how one species can act as an "umbrella" for others. By protecting for one species we actually protect the home for many which interact with it. Later we may even locate or learn about other rare things living in the same locations. It is also important to note that communities, while not protected per se, can also be endangered and merit protection. There simply is little in the legal system to do so. Threatened and endangered species help us with this.
3) Protecting wild lands (through whatever means) increase rainwater percolation. An infiltration basin required in new construction is one thing (and a good thing); it is altogether better to have the actual system preserved. Natural areas help fully functional groundwater tables and watersheds, increasing the health of lakes, rivers, streams and drinking water.
4) The recent attempted delisting by legislative committee is at best unusual if not unprecedented in any state. Apparently legislators in Wisconsin have this power but it is logical that the biologists should make this decision instead of someone trying to interpret what the biologists mean. In my experience, the professionals in this field are always passionate but their objectivity trumps their emotion when it comes time to make a decision. The science needs to show that a delisting is warranted before that delisting comes to pass.

Q. What information is there about Butler's Garter Snake identification ecology? One of our smaller garter snakes, the adult Butler's (*Thamnophis butleri*) averages about 15-20 inches with a maximum length of about 29 inches (73.7 cm). The diagnostic separation of species gets down to scale counting but the basics are a head that is barely wider than its body and the yellow stripes can show some orange. The black stripes will usually lack the yellow dashing (within the black stripes themselves) of the Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*). Each year in October or early November, adult snakes must find an empty mammal or Chimney Crayfish burrow to hibernate in. Common Garter Snakes can even spend their winter completely submerged in water. This is unknown for the Butler's Garter Snake. The snakes emerge in early to mid-April in wet grassy areas or nearby uplands. Mating begins shortly after with the males locating the females by scent. Our garter snakes are truly viviparous, meaning the 4-20 young are nourished by the females body itself and born live with no eggshell to speak of (except a thin membrane). Becoming more nocturnal during the summer months, their diet consists mainly of earthworms and slugs. They will also take small

frogs, leeches and the occasional salamander (Harding 1997).

There is no question where I stand on this issue. While my emotional self screams to preserve everything, there are two things that provide balance. One is that the science needs to support the threatened status. If the professionals agree that the snake needs delisting then so be it. The other is the fact that we all (humans) need a place to live and I will leave a footprint in the form of a house just like most. That being said, may this little reptile continue to eat, slither, hibernate and wake in the spring without my or any other house on top of it. Go, little snaky go!

Mike

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Time to Play Again!

As adults, we soon forget the fun we used to have just playing. Summer was the best time to accomplish nothing of great importance, as school was out and your parents sent you and siblings out to play for the day. Imaginations were allowed to take over — and often reality came back only when your name was called for dinner at the end of the day, or the sun had set and your bed awaited you. Not gone are the adventures that took you to far off places like the pioneer frontier, road races around the world, science experiments to wow the mind, or the far off jungles of Africa. It is okay to relive those days as adults, give yourself permission to explore the outside world once again, and discover a few new things you did not know today.

Come with me as we explore a few childhood adventures. Bugs — what better way to investigate the tiny world of insects then to go on a bug hunt. We are all too squeamish to remember that size is everything, and that these creatures are only, at most, an inch long and ugly. Grab a jar and magnifying glass, and then, off you go to the back yard garden. Pull back the mulch that you so carefully placed to ward off the weeds, and look at the life that has moved in. Ants busy working to find and gather food for the colony, Sow bugs rolled up into tiny balls as you touch them — now who's the bully — or the hideous looking earwig racing around with its awful pinchers.

Don't be afraid to pick a few up and put them in the jar for later discoveries, or use the magnifying glass to count their tiny legs — 6 in all, for a genuine insect. To most of us, the mouth of these tiny creatures is the scariest of all their body parts, with wicked looking pinchers and unusual cutting tools that aid in chopping up their next meal. Most of what you will find scurrying around in the garden have bodies that are constructed to give the best advantage for survival in this large-size world that they occupy. Take a look at your jar as you carefully place in each new discovery – somehow they are all different, but yet all the same. Subtle but drastic differences can be seen – sizes, shapes, colors, special body features that change to accommodate the living arrangements of each captured victim, or just the addition of wings to add in a speedy escape. Hours can pass and still you would be out looking at the working world in your back garden, and somehow understand that it was good to explore and that time was well spent.

Not into bugs? Try your hand at a more mobile adventure, the hike. Where should you go? Plains of the wild west, hills of the Kettle Moraine, Africa, a large city of your choice, or maybe around the grounds of a local nature center — Retzer comes to mind. What ever your dreamland is, look at the world around you as if you were there. Let's go to the plains of the Wild West, before the modern cities sprouted up. Retzer has a prairie that would be perfect. We will need to pack a few things to take on our trip, drinks — water sounds good, food — hard tack and beans, or maybe a sandwich or cookies would be better. Compass would be fun, and maybe a pair of binoculars. Don't have binoculars? Make a pair out of tissue tubes and tape. Don't laugh — they work, and remember these are childhood adventures. Now that we are ready to go — remember to let an adult know where you are going and what time you should be home.

Grasses as high as your head and wild animals looking for their next meal meet you as you venture into this wilderness. Let your dreams come alive as you stroll along your way. Take your time — as there are no deadlines to meet or errands that must be run, you are on the western plains and scouting out the territory for a new homestead site. Look around you as you trek, and observe the plants and animals that make

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(Time to Play Again!....continued)

their home here. How do the plants feel — touch and explore each as you find them. Does their texture have anything to do with their ability to survive in this vast, open terrain? Plants must have flowers of some sort — pick a few and compare the size, shape, color, petal count and even the number of flowers on the plant. Not into plant taxonomy, then just enjoy the scenery and take in the quiet noises of nature. Listen to the birds, animals, and plants as they send out their music. Take a break and open up your pack for water and that sandwich you remembered to bring. Sit amongst the tall grasses and plants and let the world pass you by, as you picture yourself alone in this place and enjoy the beauty that it has to offer.

Echinacea Pallida

Rest time is over; you have a mission to fulfill — scouting for that homestead. Moving on, we might leave the prairie and head into the woods, just to the west. Could this small parcel possibly provide you with a few needed resources to construct your new home? Why not check it out and explore this area while you are here. Be careful as the woods could hold wild animals — move slowly so as not to disturb your evening meal (as that PB&J sandwich is beginning to wear off and that was the last of your rations).

Plenty of tall trees to provide wood and make for a suitable cabin, or a shady place to cool off when the prairie gets too warm. Without even knowing it, you have just completed the best part of an afternoon and traveled a good distance. If you have not gotten yourself lost by this time (and are not too engrossed with the fur remains of some predator's last meal), hiking can and will give you time to think, reflect and explore the world for that much needed break we all deserve.

No matter what adventure you choose to explore, time to use and redevelop one's imagination and curiosity can only be a good thing if it gets you out of the house and onto the land where the most wonderful trip awaits you! Let the child that is locked inside, out for an adventure.

Amy

Education Department

New to Retzer Nature Center

Our new Naturalist and Native Nursery Manager is Dick Bautz. We asked Dick to write an article of self-introduction, as has been our policy when new folks join the Retzer staff. His article is just below — it bespeaks the focused, knowledgeable, and intense nature of the newest member of the Retzer family.

The new naturalist managing Retzer's prairie nurseries is Richard Bautz. He is a long time resident of Waukesha and has a background in environmental research and teaching. He is looking forward to expanding the plant and seed nurseries and increasing the natural areas restoration effort throughout the Waukesha County Park system. His interest in natural areas restoration began as a student volunteer with the Nature Conservancy, and continues with enthusiasm. In addition to his work at Retzer he is teaching part of an environmental science course at Carroll College.

He has a BS in Biology from UW-Milwaukee and a MS in Entomology from UW-Madison. Graduate studies centered on the ecology of Lyme disease and deer ticks. After graduation he worked for the Wisconsin DNR on prairie insects and aquatic insects. His studies of non-game mammals began as part of the tick research and lead to writing a small mammal survey techniques manual for the DNR. He regularly teaches workshops on small mammal ecology and survey methodology.

We'd like to add the following to Dick's compact self-introduction —
– He comes to us with a wonderful set of credentials, including many years as the Wisconsin DNR small mammal biologist — no small feat.
– Despite his rather serious exterior, he is really quite a funny guy.
– His very cool wardrobe of traditional outdoor gear and clothing looks like an L.L. Bean catalog from years gone by.

Welcome aboard, Dick!

A Sincere Thanks to All...

The following individuals or groups have donated to Retzer Nature Center since the last issue of CENTER LINE. Their support is greatly appreciated.

- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Waite for their generous cash donation.
- A cash donation has been made in Dick Franz's name by the Plowshare Center.
- An anonymous cash donation in memory of Alice Tomchek.
- Wisconsin Energy Corporation and their Matching Gifts Program donors: Steven Kelnhofer, Jack W. Powers, David R. Strabel and Elizabeth A. Watson.
- Don & Betty Tills for their donation of birdhouses.
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Schouten for their donation of bird feeders and bluebird house kits used in our Education Department.
- Cash donation from the Financial Human Resources Association on behalf of Mr. Philip Chard.
- Cash donation from Bette Hallam.
- Dennis Cavett for his wildlife poster donation to be used by our Education Department.

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The following individuals or groups have donated to Retzer Nature Center since the last issue of CENTER LINE. Their support is greatly appreciated.

- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Waite for their generous cash donation.
- A cash donation has been made in Dick Franz's name by the Plowshare Center.
- An anonymous cash donation in memory of Alice Tomchek.
- Wisconsin Energy Corporation and their Matching Gifts Program donors: Steven Kelnhofer, Jack W. Powers, David R. Strabel and Elizabeth A. Watson.
- Don & Betty Tills for their donation of birdhouses.
- Mr. & Mrs. Frank Schouten for their donation of bird feeders and bluebird house kits used in our Education Department.
- Cash donation from the Financial Human Resources Association on behalf of Mr. Philip Chard.
- Cash donation from Bette Hallam.
- Dennis Cavett for his wildlife poster donation to be used by our Education Department.